

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server system for serving a customized information page to a user at a browser on request, comprising:

- a database of user configurations;
- means for obtaining information from the user referencing a record in the database of user configurations, the record being a record for the user;
- means for generating a template based on the record for the user;
- a plurality of user processes, one process per user accessing the server system;
- a shared memory;
- a data structure within the shared memory for storing the dynamic information needed to generate the customized information page; and
- response means for responding to a request with an information page containing dynamic information from the data structure formatted according to the template generated for the user making the request.

2. The server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of user processes execute on a plurality of servers, the server system further comprising a means for assigning one of the plurality of servers to users who send requests to the server system but do not already have an associated user process.

30 3. The server system of claim 2, wherein the means for assigning servers is a means for assigning a specific server to a particular user, such that the particular user is assigned the specific server for each request.

35 4. The server system of claim 3, further comprising
a cache for caching templates for recently serviced users on
each of the specific servers assigned to particular users.

accepting a request for a custom page from a user;
in response to the request, reading a user template
for the user from a template database, wherein the user
template describes a layout of a custom news page customized
5 for the user;
populating a page based on the read user template
and the current data stored in the data structure in the
shared memory to form a custom news page; and
providing the custom news page to the user in real-
10 time response to the request.

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